



Committee on Homeland Security

Democrats
Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

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Statement of Rep. Bennie G. Thompson on the Transportation Security Administration Allowing General Aviation at Washington's National Airport

"The Transportation Security Administration has listened to Congress and is taking steps to reopen National Airport to general aviation.

"I am concerned that some of the proposed plan is unrealistic and only provides a piece-meal solution to air security. It is not clear how it will affect the 165,000 smaller general aviation planes, including 3,000 Mississippi planes, that do not pose the same threat as charters and corporate jets and may need different regulations and programs to govern them. This difference was evidenced a few weeks ago when a small two-seated plane entered D.C. airspace and caused the evacuation of the Capitol, the White House, and other federal buildings. It is not clear the response to that false alarm was appropriate, given the plane's size and potential threat. A comprehensive approach to security requires a risk-based approach to air security."

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